

**WFAC 21/02/02
FOR DISCUSSION**

WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WFAC) CHAIR'S REPORT

Executive Summary

1. The attached report provides a brief summary of matters discussed at the Board policy meeting on 2 December and the Board Business Committee meeting on 8 December and key issues of discussion relating to the FSA remit within Wales.
2. Members of the Committee are invited to:
 - **note** the Board discussions;
 - **invite** the Chair to expand on any issues for further discussion.

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**WFAC 20/10/02
FOR DISCUSSION
WFAC CHAIR'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2020**

1. Board Meetings

1.1 The last Board policy meeting was held on 2 December. The Welsh Food Advisory Committee (WFAC) met on 26 November to agree its advice on the papers being considered. I reflected the WFAC's advice into the Board's discussions on the following two policy papers:-

- **EU Transition Programme Update (Paper FSA 20/12/03)**

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-20-12-03-fsa-eu-transition-programme-update-final.pdf>

The paper provided updates on the progress made on the EU Transition Programme since June 2020 and on the current position and readiness in the final month of the transition period. Further, the paper outlined the key areas of focus as we implement our end-of-Transition-Period workstreams and activities and move into business as usual in 2021. The paper additionally updated the FSA Board on the proposals for the food compositional standards and labelling framework.

- **Food Hypersensitivity Programme Update (Paper FSA 20/12/04)**

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-20-12-04-food-hypersensitivity-programme-update-final.pdf>

The paper reported to the Board on the progress of the FSA's Food Hypersensitivity Strategy. It set out the proposed approaches to progressing the work on a Food Allergy Safety scheme and on Precautionary Allergen Labelling. The paper also updated the Board on progress in a number of related key work areas:

- Pre-packed for Direct Sale foods.
- Communications campaigns.
- Food allergy and intolerance e-training.
- Food allergic reaction reporting mechanism.
- Programme Stakeholder Engagement.
- Research and evidence.

1.2 A link to the video of the full proceedings of the 2 December meeting is below: <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-december-2020>. The minutes of the meeting, when available, will be posted on: <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/our-board#meetings>.

1.3 The Board next met on 8 December for a business meeting. Agenda items considered at that meeting included the 2nd quarter report on Performance and Resources, Local Authority Delivery and Performance and an annual update from the National Food Crime Unit. Copies of the papers considered and a record of the full proceedings are at <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-business-committee-meeting-december-2020>

1.4 On 19 January, I attended a meeting of the Board's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC), followed by a Board Retreat. The ARAC gave initial consideration to the Internal Audit Assurance Plans for 2021-22. The Board itself held an annual Risk Workshop and a Strategic Priorities Review combined with business planning, and then received updates on EU Transition and on Trade issues.

1.5 As a new feature to suit the online functioning of the Board, with avoidance of long single session meetings, fairly informal 1-hour KIT (mainly single topic) meetings have been introduced. I attended such a session on 28 January, at which the Chair in Northern Ireland and I gave reports on the recruitment processes to our respective Advisory Committees. The group then received a report on work delivery issues and we reflected on the implications of the unique EU transition issues in Northern Ireland.

1.6 I am grateful to Heather Hancock (Board Chair) and Emily Miles (Chief Executive) for very helpful periodic 1:1 meetings. In that online format, I met Heather on 14 December and Emily on 29 January.

2. Other Matters

2.1 On 9 December, Heather Hancock and I, together with Nathan Barnhouse, met Eluned Morgan MS, Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and the Welsh Language, in her recently appointed capacity as the Health Minister to whom we normally report. It was a constructive meeting, at which we were able to update the Minister on our work, including the recruitment advertising then underway.

2.2 I have chaired the panel established to report to Eluned Morgan MS, as relevant Minister, on the public appointment recruitment exercise for four positions on WFAC which will become available from 1 April 2021. I was joined on the panel by Dr Eleri Davies, a Consultant Microbiologist from Public Health Wales and Dr Huw Brunt, Welsh Government's Chief Environmental Health and Protection Officer. A total of 23 applications were received from which 13 were selected for interview. The standard of applications was excellent. Interviews were held on 20 and 25 January and a report is in preparation for consideration by the Minister.

2.3 As the Chair of the WFAC I have observer status on the Safe Sustainable Authentic Food Wales (SSAFW) group. I will be attending the meeting of SSAFW on 1 February and will provide an oral report of this meeting to you.

Peter Price

Board Member for Wales and Chair of the Welsh Food Advisory Committee

29 January 2021